

Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

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FM USMISSION SINAI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0893

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1519

FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN

SUBJECT: INTRUSION REPORT FOLLOW-UP

REF: SINAI 1505

1. UNEF HQ RESPONSE TO SFM REQUEST FOR FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION ON AUGUST 14 HELICOPTER INTRUSION OVER MITLA WEST WAS SLOW AND PERFUNCTORY. FOLLOW-UP CONSISTED OF RECONFIRMATION ABSENCE OF UNEF AIRCRAFT IN BUFFER ZONE AND A QUERY TO GHANBATT HQ. UNEF DID NOT QUERY INDOBATT OR SWEDBATT - WHICH MAN POSITIONS ON E-LINE RESPECTIVELY TO SOUTH AND NORTH OF GHANBATT - OR GOE. PRESUMABLY, UNEF POSITIONS WOULD HAVE REPORTED ANY DETECTED OVERFLIGHT WITHOUT BEING QUERIED.

2. IN ABSENCE PROOF OF IDENTITY OF HELICOPTER, WE OFFER FOLLOW-ING OBSERVATIONS:

-- SENSOR ACTIVATIONS - NOS. 33, 35, AND 42 AT WESTERN END OF MITLA WEST SENSOR FIELD, FOLLOWED BY 51 TO NORTH OF WATCH STATION -- INDICATE CRAFT APPROACHED FROM WEST OR SOUTHWEST (THE DIRECTION OF SUEZ CITY). CRAFT APPEARS TO HAVE TURNED

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SHARPLY OVER MITLA WEST: SENSOR 51 WAS WESTERNMOST SENSOR

ACTIVATED AND CRAFT WAS HEADED ON NORTHWEST COURSE WHEN FIRST OBSERVED BY SFM OPERATOR WHO HAD GONE OUTSIDE TO LOOK.

-- OPERATOR WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE CRAFT FOR DISTANCE ESTIMATED AS TWO-THIRDS OF WAY TO UNEF CHECKPOINT ALPHA. PERSONNEL AT ALPHA STATED THAT THEY NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD A HELICOPTER DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

-- ABSENCE UNEF POSITIONS ON E-LINE BETWEEN LATERAL E-W ROADS - TEN TO MORE THAN TWENTY MILES APART - PROVIDES CORRIDORS THROUGH WHICH HELICOPTERS FLYING AT ALTITUDES OF SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET CAN PASS UNDETECTED AT GROUND LEVEL WITHOUT THE AID OF TECHNICAL DEVICES - ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT - UNLESS PERSONNEL HAPPEN TO BE OUT OF DOORS AND LOOKING SKYWARD.

-- WE CONCLUDE THAT CRAFT ENTERED BUFFER ZONE SOUTH OF MITLA ROAD THAT PASSES THRU UNEF POSITIONS MIKE AND 752 AND PROBABLY EXITED BUFFER ZONE TO SOUTH OF CHECKPOINT LPHA ON GIDDI ROAD.

-- THIS FLIGHT PATTERN, COUPLED WITH RECENT EGYPTIAN SHIFT FROM PASSIVITY TO ACTIVE TESTING OF BUFFER ZONE DETECTION AND WARNING SYSTEMS THAT HAS FEATURED AT LEAST TWO PREVIOUS (DAYTIME) DEEP PENETRATIONS AS WELL AS NON-OPERATION OF UNEF AIRCRAFT IN BUFFER ZONE DURING DARK, SUGGESTS THIS HELICOPTER WAS ARE CRAFT.
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